

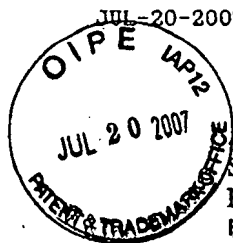
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### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer to resubmission in a divisional or continuation application the claims indicated as cancelled:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

calculating a plurality of format metric values based on a coding rate for a plurality of calculated Viterbi metric values;

comparing the calculated format metrics;

based on the comparison, determining a probable transmitted format for a transmitted block from the set of possible formats;

calculating a format metric for a possible bit value using a function:

$$\text{FormatMetric} = \frac{\text{ViterbiMetric}^2}{2\sigma^2 N} - N \cdot \ln(2) / \text{CodingRate}$$

wherein  $\text{ViterbiMetric}^2$  is a squared Viterbi metric value for a format parameter,  $N$  is the number of assumed transmitted bits corresponding to a format,  $\sigma^2$  represents the noise variance of the received block, and  $\text{CodingRate}$  represents the known encoding rate used for transmission for the received block; and using a probable transmitted formula to decode the transmitted block.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising determining a plurality of possible data bit values for a transmitted data block with an unknown transmission format.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising determining the highest format metric calculated.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:  
calculating a plurality of Viterbi metric values for a plurality of possible format parameters;